

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

To: CLIA-certified laboratories in Florida

From: The Florida Department of Health

Through: The Agency for Health Care Administration

Re: Mandatory Reporting of COVID-19 test results under Section 381.0031, Florida Statutes.

Date: March 25, 2020

COVID-19 IS A REPORTABLE CONDITION OF URGENT PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE AND MUST BE REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IMMEDIATELY.

Florida Statutes section 381.0031 and Florida Administrative Code Chapter 64D-3 require all laboratories, regardless of public or private status, to report *without delay* conditions of urgent public health importance, including COVID-19. Reports that cannot timely be made during the County Health Department business day shall be made to the County Health Department after-hours duty official. If unable to do so during normal business hours, the laboratories are required to contact the Department after-hours duty official at (850)245-4401.

Rule 64D-3.047 provides:

- (1) Any practitioner, hospital or laboratory who is subject to the provisions of this rule who fails to report a disease or condition as required by this rule or otherwise fails to act in accordance with this rule is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) as provided in Section 775.082 or 775.083, F.S. Each violation is considered a separate offense.
- (2) All violations by practitioners, hospitals or laboratories shall be reported to the appropriate professional licensing authorities and public financing programs.

Please be advised that strict compliance with this rule is of the utmost importance during this public health emergency. The Department of Health, in conjunction with state, federal, and local authorities, uses this data in real time to prepare and respond to the COVID-19 emergency. *Any* gaps or delays in reporting time hinder efficient emergency response and resource allocation. The Department trusts you, the CLIA-certified facility, to meet your obligation to report immediately during this pandemic.
